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Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Antibiotics in Agribusiness

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am concerned about the dangers to humans who eat meat in this nation due to overuse of antibiotics by agribusiness.

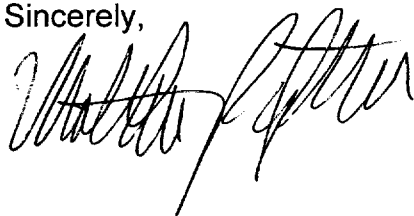
The overuse of antibiotics has resulted in a substantial increase in bacteria in food, such as salmonella. It has also resulted in a widespread increase in antibiotic-resistant infection among humans. Many people now must be treated with a series of various antibiotics in order to treat infection, and many people die from what has been until recently a treatable problem.

Farmers account for the use of more than 40% of antibiotics in the U.S. About 80% of this is used purely to benefit agribusiness: promoting weight gain and increasing profit. This excessive and unnecessary use does not benefit consumers in any way.

Sweden banned the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture 13 years ago! Europe has already banned the use of a number of antibiotics in animal feed. The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control have both recommended certain restrictions in the use of antibiotics in agribusiness. Yet, despite the medical evidence, the FDA continues to support agribusiness and the pharmaceutical industries instead of protecting American consumers.

I strongly urge you to revoke approvals for the existing use of six antibiotics (as recommended by the WHO and the CDC) in animal feed, and to also limit new uses of antibiotics in agriculture.

Sincerely,



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